



Date: March 30, 2015

To: Thomas J. Bonfield, City Manager
Through: Keith Chadwell, Deputy City Manager
From: Reginald J. Johnson, Director
Department of Community Development
Subject: FY 2014-2015 Emergency Solutions Grant Funds Durham Crisis
Response Center Subrecipient Contract Emergency Shelter Services

Executive Summary

On December 5, 2013 the City of Durham Department of Community Development held an application workshop for vendors interested in applying for 2014-15 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Home Investment Partnership Program (HOME), Emergency Solutions grant (ESG) and City General Funds. The deadline for receiving applications for the 2014-15 funds was Thursday January 16, 2014. Durham Crisis Response Center (DCRC) was recommended for the award of 2014-15 ESG funds in the amount of \$15,029.00. On May 5, 2014, City Council approved the FY 2014-2015 Annual Action Plan for the City of Durham.

Recommendation

The Department of Community Development (DCD) recommends that the City Council authorize the expenditure of \$15,029.00 in Emergency Solutions Grant funds and authorizes the City Manager to execute a contract with Durham Crisis Response Center in the amount of \$15,029.00 to provide emergency shelter to households experiencing homelessness who are victims of domestic violence.

Background

In 2009, President Obama signed the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act. Under the HEARTH Act, the Department of Housing & Urban Development revised the ESG Regulations which divided ESG funding into two categories; Emergency Response & Housing Stabilization. Emergency Response can be used for emergency shelter operations and corresponding essential services while Housing Stabilization can be used for Rapid Rehousing and Homeless Prevention.

Issues/Analysis

Durham Crisis Response Center was one of three organizations that applied for Emergency Response Funds. The 2014-15 City ESG allocation from HUD was greater than originally anticipated. Thus, DCRC is recommended for funding above the amount requested in its application (\$10,667.00).

Alternatives

One alternative to contracting with DCRC is rejecting their application and seeking another agency to provide Emergency Shelter assistance. However, since DCRC was the sole respondent to the application process that supports survivors of domestic violence in Durham, identifying another provider who meets this unique need in Durham may be difficult.

Financial Impacts

ESG funds are budgeted and available for this project.

SDBE Summary

SDBE requirements are not applicable.